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Food (1949) Department.

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Dated 22-4-49

[Despatch Abstract.]

FOOD situation- Madras Province Report for the fortnight ending 15-3-1949 Review- Papers recorded.

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BOARD OF REVENUE (CIVIL SUPPLIES)

REPORT ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE OF MADRAS DURING THE FIRST FORTNIGHT OF MARCH 1949.

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I. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP PROSPECTS:

The rainfall during the fortnight was light in Tirnelveli and nil in the other districts of the Province.

Transplantation of paddy was proceeding in West Godavari and in parts of Coimbatore. Water supply was inadequate in the districts of Anantapur, Cuddapah, Chingleput, Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore and Ramnad and in parts of Kurnool, Bellary, Nellore, South Arcot, Tiruchirapalli and Mathurai districts.

The conditions of standing crops was poor in Chingleput, North Arcot, Coimbatore nad Tiruchiraplli and generally fair in the other districts. Paddy crop in parts of South Arcot, Coimbatore and Tanjore districts and the standing crops in Maduranthakam, Kancheepuram and Chingleput Taluks of the Chingleput district were affected by pests. Standing crops in all the taluks of Chingleput and in parts of South Arcot, Chittoor, North Arcot, Ramnad and Tirunelveli dists. were withering for want of rain or of adequate water supply.

Harvest of paddy was proceeding in the districts of East Godavari, Nellore, Salem, Tanjore, Mathurai, Ramnad Tirunelveli, Malabar, South Kanara and in parts of Guntur, and Tirchirapalli; of cholam in Bellary and Coimbatore; of cumbu in Bellary, Coimbatore and Tirnelveli; and of ragi in Nellore district. The outturn of paddy and millets was poor to normal.

II. EXTENT TO WHICH RATIONING HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN:

i. Nature of Existing Government Commitments:-

At the beginning of the fortnight under review, statutory rationing continued to be in force in 44 municipal areas, one panchayat area and in Madras City and its suburban areas.

There was also rationing on a non-statutory basis on the rural areas of all deficit districts. As regards the surplus districts, distribution of foodgrains was made through relief shops in the upland taluks of Guntur and Nellore Districts; in all other areas, distribution of foodgrains was made through retail agencies.

ii. Towns Areas brought under Rationing during the fortnight:-

Statutory rationing was introduced with effect from 13th March 1949 in the municipal areas of Anakapalle, Bheemaunipatnam, Chicacole, Vizagapatam and Vizianagaram in Vizagapatam district, and Arupukottai, Devakkottai, Karaikudi, Rajapalayam, Sivakasi, Srivilliputhur, and Virudhunagar in Ramnad district. Pre-rationing enquiries are in progress in the municipal areas of Ambur, Gudiyantham, Tirupathur, Tiruvannamalai, Vaniambadi, Vellore and Wallajapet in North Arcot district, and Dharapuram, Erode, Mettupalayam, Pollachi and Udumalpet in Coimbatore district. With the introduction of statutory rationing in these municipal areas, the introduction of regular rationing (statutory and rural) will be completed in all the deficit districts in this Province. The question of introduction

of rationing in the six surplus districts in the Province in still under consideration and a decision will be taken in the matter as early as possible.

iii. Population involved separately for towns and rural areas:

	Adults	Children	Total in terms of adults.
Areas under Rural Rationing	2,36,99,132	79,10,603	2,76,54,434
Statutorily rationed areas	36,86,846	10,82,426	42,28,059
Areas covered by relief shops.	13,99,288	5,34,687	16,66,631

(Population figures as at the end of February 1949)

III. REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF PROCUREMENT, BASIC PLAN MOVEMENT ETC:

i. Progress of procurement:

The following is the progress of procurement during and upto the fortnight ending 28th Febturay 1949:

Food - grain	Target for Kharriff year 1948-49 i.e. from 1-11-1948 to 31.10.49 tons.	Quantity procured during the fortnight ending 28-2-1949 Tons.	Quantitity procured from 1-11-1948 to 28-2-49	Percentage of procurement to target-
Riece	15,81,100	1,14,304	5,89,862	37.3
Millets	1,68,850	2,884	11,084	6.6

Compared with the quantitities procured during the fortnight ending 15-2-1949, viz. 1,20,080 tons of rice and 2,199 tons of millets, the procurement during the fortnight ending 28-2-1949 registered a decrease of 5,776 tons in rice and ian increase of 685 tons in millets. The decrease in rice was due to the fact that the harvest of paddy was coming to a close in several districts.

ii. Basic Plan Movements:

(a) Rice: The following quantities were imported during the fortnight:

From		Tons.
Orissa	....	693
Coorg	....	411
Overseas	....	10,590

(b) Millets and Maize: Only24 tons of jowar were received from Orissa during the fortnight against a quota offered to this Province during October 1948.

The March quota of 6,500 tons of maize to this Province is expected to be received ex.. ss. 'CAPE CARSO' at Madras Port shortly.

(c) Wheat and Wheat products:

There were no receipts of wheat and wheat products in the fortnight under review. The Government of India have allotted 10,000 tons of wheat towards March quota as detailed below:

2,000 tons	of wheat ex. s.s.	'INDIAN CITY' expected at Madras Shortly.
1,500 tons	-do-	'NICOLAS K.' -do-
2,000 tons	-do-	'CAPOMANARA' -do-
2,500 tons	-do-	'EIMPIRE CHAIRMIAN do
2,000 tons	-do-	'VENGNOR' -do-

The shipments are awaited.

(d) Gram: A quantity of 4,180 tons of bengal-gram and its products was in transit during the fortnight from the East Punjab States Union to Madras.

With regard to the quota allotted from the Bikaner State, the Government of India's instructions on the request of the Government of Madras to ensure that supplies are made a t Rs.13/- per manund F.O.R., pending reduction of administration charges, from any centre in Bikaner, are still awaited.

The Regional Food Commissioner, Madras, who was addressed in the matter has not yet quoted the correct F.O.R. price of the quota from the Vindhya Pradesh Union.

iii. RATION (Scales and Composition) and Offtake:

(a) Statutory Rationing:

The Scale and composition of the ration to all cardholders in the statutorily and informally rationed areas has been revised as follows with effect from 6th March 1949:

i.	Rice eaters:	8 oz. rice plus 2 oz. semolina plus 2 oz. wheat, semolina, maize, maize flour, milo and/ or local millets according to availability.
ii.	Mixed diet eaters:	4 oz. rice plus 2 oz. semolina plus 6 oz wheat,semolina, maize, maize flour milo and/ or local millets according to availability.
iii.	Millet eaters:	2 oz. of rice plus 2 oz. semolina plus 8 oz. wheat semolina, maize, maize flo ur, and/or local millets according to availability

NOTE: 1. Total ration is not to exceed 12 oz. per adult per day or 12 oz. of baker's bread plus 2 oz semolina.
2. Baker's bread is issued to all card-holders towards their rice and/ or non-rice portion except towards the oz. of extra semolina.
3. Habitual whea t eaters and those who require wheat on medical grounds are issued 10oz. of wheat plus 2oz. of semolina or 12 oz of baker's bread plus 2 oz. of semolina.
4. The taking of maize, milo, local millets, wheat and or semolina is optional.

The offtake of foodgrains during the four weekly month of February 1949 was as follows:

Rice	28,164	tons
Wheat and wheat products	2,816	"
Other grains	981	"
	31,961	"

(b) Rural Rationing:

The scale and composition of the ration applicable to statutorily rationed areas (item (a) above) is applicable to the informally rationed areas also. The offtake of foodgrains from the rural ration shops during February 1949 (four weeks only) was as follows:

Rice	47,090 tons
Wheat and wheat products	1,540 tons
Wheat products	9,039 tons
	57,669 Tons.

(Revised figures with reference to the latest complete reports received from the Collectors).

(c) Distribution through Relief Shops in Unrationed Areas:

Relief shops were functioning during the fortnight under review in the upland taluks of Guntur, and Nellore districts and in the municipal areas of Vizagapatam, North Arcot and Rambad districts and in Coimbatore district excluding the muncipal towns of Coimbatore and Tiruppur where statutory rationing is already in force. The relief shops functioning in the muncipal areas of Vizagapatam and Ramhad districts were converted into ration shops on the 13th March 1949 when statutory rationing was introduced in those areas. All the relief shops in the Municipal towns of Coimbatore and North Arcot districts will also be converted shortly into ration shops on the introduction of statutory rationing.

There was not change in the scale and compsosition or the relief quota in the un-rationed areas:

The Offtake through relief shops during February 1949 (Four weeks only) was as follows:

Rice	4,990	tons
Wheat and wheat products	308	tons
Other grains	932	tons
	6,230	tons

(Revised figures with reference tc the latest complete reports received from the Collectors.)

The percentage of offtake of the several foodgrains to the theorical requirements during Febraury 1949 works out to 61 for rice, 19 for wheat and wheat products and 27 for millets. The offtake of 'other grains' (Millets and Maize) was particularly low during the month and this was due to the non availability of adequate stocks in the rations shops in certain districts like coimbatore and Salem where the stock position was unsatisfactory and also due to the local harvests of millets and availability of wages in kind for the labourers who are mostly millet and mixed diet eaters. The low offtake in certain districts like Bellary was due to the issue of unfamiliar milo.

iv. Food control Organization:

Nothing special to report.

IV. REVIEW OF SUPPLIES, MOVEMENTS AND PRICES:

(i) Stock and Supply:

(a) Rice: The total provincial stock increased from 3,83,564 tons on 26th February 1949 to 4,41,266 tons on the 12th March 1949 due mainly to a fall in the off-take consequent on the harvest of main crop in most of the districts The stock position was satisfactory in all the districts except the Nilgiris. Necessary steps have been taken to replenish stocks there.

(b) Millets and Maize:

The stocks of maize and other Grains on the 5th March 1949 were 1,102 tons 27,008 tons respectively. The supply position of millets in Salem and Coimbatore is not staisfactory and some stocks from other districts are being transferred to these districts.

(c) Wheat and wheat products:

The stock of wheat and wheat products on the 5th March 1949 was 10,940 tons and 2,805 tons respectively. No stocks are in transit.

(ii) Movements and Trasport:

Rail mo ements from the Circars continued to be difficult and were assisted by movements by ships from Kakinada and Masulipatam. During the early part of the fortnight movements of rice from the Northern Circars by rail were seriously disorganised by the import of 2,5000 tons of wheat (which had to be moved to Hyderabad) into Kakinada by the Government of India without any previous warning or consultation. It is particularly unfortunate that this was done at a time when it was essential to move as much rice as possible from this area by rail to the southern deficit districts in view of the threatened strike on the South Indian Railway so much so that the Madras Government had gone to the expense of chartering ships to supplement this movement. Movements from the Tanjore area proceeded with enhanced speed in anticipation of a strike on the South Indian Railway which fortunately did not materialise.

iii. Prices:

The statement below shows the Provincial average retail prices of rice (second sort), cholam, (jowar) and cumbu (bajra) during the first fortnight in March 1949. The retail prices in respect of rice (second sort), Cholam (jowar) and cumbu (bajra) have flucuated within narrow limits during the fortnight:

(PRICES ARE IN TERMS OF RUPEES PER IMPERIAL MAUND)

	Prices on 12-3-49	Prices a fortnight ago.	Prices a month ago	Prices a year ago.
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Rice (ii sort)	15.81	15.71	15.82	15.13
Cholam (jowar)	9.99	9.96	10.27	10.35
Cumbu (Bajra)	10.49	10.66	10.75	10.80

V. MISCELLANEOUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED FOOD POLICY:

Nothing special to report.

N.S. Mani,
Secretary.

True Copy.

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office

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NOTEFILE: FOOD DEPARTMENT.

NOTE FOR CIRCULATION.

Sub: Food situation- Madras Province- Report for the fortnight ending 15-3-1949- Review.
Ref: From the Board of Revenue (C.S.) Madras No. L.Dis. E. 39959/49 (CS) dated 28-3-49.

The report on the food situation in the Madras Progin ce for the fortnight ending 15-3-1949 at pp 3-8 c.f and the enclosur s thereto at pp 11-17 cf. afe submitted for perusal.

Rainfall: The rain fall during the fortnight was light in Tirnelveli and nil in the other Districts of the Province.

Sowing & Trasplantation:- Transplantation of paddy was proceeding in the West Godavari and in parts of Coimbatore. Water supply was inadequate in the districts of Anatapur, Cuddapah, Chingleput, Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore and Ramnad and in parts of Kurnool, Bellary, Nellore, South Arcot, Tirchirapalli and Mathurai Districts.

Standing Crops: The condition of stand ing crops was poor in Chingleput, North Arcot, Coimbatore and Tiruchirapalli and generally fair in the other districts. Paddy crop in parts of South Arcot, Coimbatore and Tanjore districts and the standing crops in Maduranthakam, Kancheepuram and Chingleput Taluks of the Chingleput district were affected by posts. Standing crops in all the taluks of chingleput and in parts of South A rcot, Chittoor, North Arcot, Ramhad and Tirunelveli districts were withering for want of rain or of adequate water supply.

Harvest: Harvest of paddy was proceeding in the districts of East Godavari, Nellore, Salem, Tanjore, Mathurai, Ramnad Tirnelveli, Malabar, South Kanara and in parts of Guntur and Tiruchirapalli; of cholam in Bellary and in Coimbatore; of cumbu in Bellary, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli; and of- ragi in Nellore district. The outturn of paddy and millets was poor to normal.

Stock & supply position: The stock position of foodgrains in the Province on 19-3-1949 was as follows when compared with the stock position on 12-3-49.

Food grains	Stock on 12-3-49. (in tons)	Stockon 19-3-49. (in tons)
Rice	441266	456911
Wheat	9599	8080
Maida	2574	2379
Other foodgrains	26337	25884
Maize	925	766
Semolina	...	3577
Total...	4,80701	4,97597

Rice: The stock position was satisfactory in all the districts except the Nilgiris. Necessary steps have been taken to replenish the stocks there.

The following quantities were imported during the fortnight.

From	Tons.
Orissa.	893
Coorg	411
Overseas.	10,590

Millets and maize: The supply position of millets in Salem and Coimbatore is not sa tisfactory and some stocks from other districts are being trasferred to these districts.

Only 24 tons of jowar were received from Orissa during the fortnight against a quota offered to this Province during October 1948.

The March quota of 6,500 tons of maize to this Province is expected to be received ex ss. "CAPE CARSO" at Madras Port shortly.

Wheat & Wheat Products: The stocks were sufficient No stocks are in transit.

Progress of precurement:- 1,14,304 tons of rice and 2884 tons of millets were procured during the fortnight ending 28-2-1949.

Compared with the quantities procured during the fortnight ending 15-2-1949, viz. 1,20,080 tons of rice and 2,199 tons of millets, the procrement during the fortnight ending 28-2-1949 registered a decrease of 5,776 tons in rice was due to the fact that the harvest of paddy was coming to a close in several districts.

Prices:- The statement below shows the Provincial average retail prices of rice (second sort), cholam, (jowar) and cumbu (bagra) during the first fortnight in March 1949. The retail prices in reppect of rice (second sort), cholam (jowar) and cumbu (Bajra) have flunctauted within narrow limits during the fortnight:

(Prices are in terms of Rupees per Imperial Maund)

	Prices on 12-3-1949	Prices a fortnight ago	Prices a month ago	Prices a year ago.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rice (ii sort)	15.81	15.71	15.82	15.13
Cholam (jowar)	9.99	9.96	10.27	10.35
Cumbu (Bajra)	10.49	10.68	10.75	10.80

Also the statement of prices at pp 11_17 cf may be perused.

The case may be circulated to H.M. (Food) H.M. (P.W) and H.E. for perusal.

P.S.G. H.E. has seen, thanks.

To A.S.

The file may now be sent to P.W. (I. & P) Dept. for perusal and ~~turen~~ and will be recorded on return.

P.W. Dept.

P.P.1-4 above may be perused and file returned to ~~Food~~.

Food

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May now be recorded.

G.O.Ms. No.367, dated 22-4-49., Food situation-Madras Province Report for the Fortnight ending 15-3-1949 Review Papers recorded.

True Copy

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

MG.

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